

**Summary of the Statement of the National Mining Association
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality**

February 16, 2005

- NMA represents coal producers, uranium producers, producers of metals and minerals, manufacturers of processing equipment, mining machinery and supplies, transporters, and engineering, consulting, and financial institutions.
- Comprehensive energy legislation should include policies to encourage greater domestic production and more efficient use of energy. The need for such legislation is more important than ever. We welcome the opportunity to work with Congress to enactment such legislation in 2005.
- There is no doubt that with our abundant domestic reserves, coal can play an even bigger role in the electric generation market in the years to come, thus freeing up supplies to ease the natural gas crisis. Coal generates over 50 percent of the nation's electricity and will continue to do so, according to EIA forecasts. Coal is the only domestic source of energy that is expected to increase production sufficiently to meet forecasted demand – just as coal is the only domestic source of energy to consistently increase production over the past 25 years.
- Coal is domestic, reliable, affordable and increasingly clean. Since 1980, the amount of coal used to generate electricity has increased 75 percent, while emissions from coal-fueled power plants are 40 percent lower over the same time period. New advanced clean coal technologies will enable this trend to accelerate, allowing greater use of coal to meet the projected 50 percent increase in electricity demand over the next two decades with even lower emissions.
- The Energy Policy Act of 2005 should include the three coal research, development and deployment components that enjoyed bipartisan support in H.R. 6 in the 108th Congress: a five year basic coal research and development program, the Clean Coal Power Initiative and the Clean Air Coal Program. A key principle that should guide each of these programs is that they facilitate a suite of technologies as it would be unwise for Congress to select technological “winners and losers” by focusing on only one technology pathway.
- House Conferees have consistently acted on a bipartisan basis to reject proposals from the other body for an ill-advised Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and mandatory carbon-related provisions. RPS issues are best left to the States for a variety of reasons, including differences in regional energy resources as well as the impact on electricity costs. Several of the research programs we support include carbon sequestration and other technology-based climate approaches, including those that promote energy efficiency. Technology, not ineffective unilateral mandatory restrictions on U.S. carbon emissions, should be the basis for sound public policy that is consistent with economic growth.